

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An imaging system, comprising:

an image processor configured to generate image data representing an image;

a storage device configured to store the image data;

a print driver configured to generate instructions corresponding to the image data;

an image maker configured to generate a representation of the image in accordance with the ~~drive~~ print driver instructions;

a first communications network interconnecting the image processor and the print driver; and

a second communications network, different than the first communications network, interconnecting the image processor, the print driver, and the storage device,

wherein the print driver is further configured to transmit to the image processor, via the first communications network, a product identifier for a destination storage device at which the image data generated by the image processor is to be stored;

the image processor is further configured to process the transmitted product identifier to determine if the destination storage device at which the generated image data is to be stored is the storage device; and

the image data generated by the image processor is written to the storage device via the second communications network if the destination storage device at which the generated image data is to be stored is determined to be the storage device.

2. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:

the image processor is further configured to write the generated image data to the storage device via the second communications network; and

the print driver is further configured to read the stored image data from the storage device via the second communications network.

3. (original) A system according to claim 2, wherein:

the image processor is further configured to generate a message indicative of the image data having been written to the storage device and to transmit the message to the print driver via the first communications network.

4. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:

the image processor is a raster image processor;

the storage device is part of a single pool of storage devices;

the image maker is one of a color proofer and an image setter; and

the second communications network includes respective dedicated links between the image processor and the pool of storage devices, and between the print driver and the pool of storage devices.

5. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein:

the first communications network includes links having a first bandwidth;

the dedicated links have a second bandwidth greater than the first bandwidth.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A system according to claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein:

the print driver is further configured to transmit to the image processor, via the first communications network, a destination identifier for the destination storage device at which the image data generated by the image processor is to be stored;

the image processor is further configured to transmit to the print driver, responsive to the transmitted storage device destination identifier and via the first communications network, a request for the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination; and

the print driver is further configured to transmit the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination responsive to the transmitted request.

8. (original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a remote storage device configured to store the image data;

wherein the first communications network is further configured to interconnect the image processor, the print driver and the remote storage device;

wherein the print driver is further configured to transmit to the image processor, via the first communications

network, a product identifier for a destination storage device at which the image data generated by the image processor is to be stored;

wherein the image processor is further configured to process the transmitted product identifier to determine if the destination storage device at which the generated image data is to be stored is the remote storage device; and

wherein the image data generated by the image processor is written to the remote storage device via the first communications network if the destination storage device at which the generated image data is to be stored is determined to be the remote storage device.

9. (original) A system according to claim 8, wherein:

the print driver is further configured to transmit to the image processor, via the first communications network, a destination identifier for the destination storage device at which the image data generated by the image processor is to be stored;

the image processor is further configured to transmit to the print driver, responsive to the transmitted destination storage device destination identifier and via the first communications network, a request for the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination; and

the print driver is further configured to transmit the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination responsive to the transmitted request.

10. (original) A system according to claim 9, wherein:

the transmitted storage device destination identifier includes a destination storage device designation for the destination storage device at the identified destination associated with the print driver;

the image processor is further configured to determine if the destination storage device designation associated with the print driver corresponds to a storage device designation for the remote storage device associated with the image processor;

the image data generated by the image processor is written by the image processor directly to the remote storage device via the first communications network, if the storage device designation associated with the print driver is determined to correspond to the storage device designation associated with the image processor for the remote storage device; and

the image data generated by the image processor is transmitted by the image processor to the print driver via the second communications network, if the storage device designation associated with the print driver is not determined to correspond to the storage device designation associated with the image processor for the remote storage device.

11. (currently amended) A method for generating a representation of an image, comprising:

generating image data representing an image;

writing the generated image data to a storage device via a first communications network;

transmitting a notice of the generated image data having been written to the storage device via a second communications network, different than the first communications network;

reading the stored image data from the storage device via the first communications network;

generating instructions corresponding to the read image data; ~~and~~

generating a representation of the image in accordance with the instructions;

transmitting, via the second communications network, a product identifier for a destination storage device at which the image data is to be stored; and

processing the transmitted product identifier to determine if the destination storage device, at which the generated image data is to be stored, is located on the first communications network;

wherein the generated image data is written to the storage device via the first communications network only if the destination storage device, at which the generated image data is to be stored, is determined to be located on the first communications network.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11, wherein:

the generated image data is generated raster image data;

the generated image representation is one of a color proof of the image and the image;

the generated raster image data is written to the storage device via a first dedicated communications link within the first communications network; and

the stored raster image data is read from the storage device via a second dedicated communications link within the first communications network.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein:
the dedicated links have a first bandwidth; and
links within the second communications network have a second bandwidth, less than the first bandwidth.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~14~~ 11, further comprising:

transmitting, via the second communications network, a destination identifier for the destination storage device at which the generated image data is to be stored;

transmitting, responsive to the transmitted destination storage device destination identifier and via the first communications network, a request for the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination; and

transmitting the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination responsive to the transmitted request.

16. (original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising:

generating other image data representing an image;

transmitting, via the second communications network, a product identifier for a destination storage device at which the other generated image data is to be stored;

processing the transmitted product identifier to determine if the destination storage device at which the other

generated image data is to be stored is remote to the first communications network; and

writing the other generated image data to a remote storage device identified by the product identifier via the second communications network if the destination storage device identified by the product identifier is determined to be remote to the first communications network.

17. (original) A method according to claim 16, further comprising:

transmitting, via the second communications network, a destination identifier for the destination storage device at which the other generated image data is to be stored;

transmitting, responsive to the transmitted destination storage device destination identifier and via the second communications network, a request for the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination; and

transmitting the product identifier for the destination storage device at the identified destination responsive to the transmitted request.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the transmitted destination storage device destination identifier includes a first storage device designation for the destination storage device at the identified destination, and further comprising:

determining if the first storage device designation corresponds to a second storage device designation for the remote storage device;

wherein the other generated image data is written directly to the remote storage device via the second communications network, if the first storage device designation is determined to correspond to the second storage device designation; and

wherein the other generated image data is transmitted to a network device other than the remote storage device via the first communications network, if the first storage device designation is not determined to correspond to the second storage device designation.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)